

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 and 14 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 10 are amended to indicate specific solvents used in the polyisocyanate and/or binder components. Support for the amendments can be found at page 7 lines 4-11. A Declaration of Dr. Steffen Hofacker, an inventor on the present application, is submitted herewith under Rule 1.132.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-11 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over BASF as evidenced by Kubitza in view of Bayer, and as being obvious over BASF as evidenced by Kubitza in view of Mager and Bayer. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections as they may pertain to Claims 1 and 10, as amended, and the claims depending therefrom.

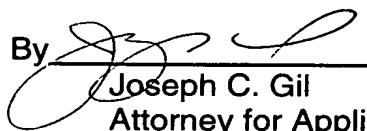
Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to recite the use of specific solvents in the preparation of the polyisocyanate and/or binder components of the first coating layer, which comprises a two-component polyurethane adhesion promoter. As established in the declaration of Dr. Hofacker, these solvents provide excellent adhesion of the protective covering system of the present invention to a polycarbonate surface. As can be seen in the data presented, standard solvents known and used in the art do not impart the desired adhesion properties to the coating, and it fails to adhere to a polycarbonate surface when standard solvents are used.

The use of these particular solvents is not taught or suggested in any of the above-cited references, and there is no guidance provided on the choice of solvents for providing improved adhesion to polycarbonate surfaces for the specific coatings claimed, namely, a two-layer coating build-up wherein the first coating comprises a two-component polyurethane adhesion promoter (primer) containing alkoxyisilyl groups and the second coating comprises an inorganic or an inorganic-organic hybrid. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1 and 10 are not obvious in view of any of the references cited, and request withdrawal of all §103 rejections.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all outstanding issues are addressed and Claims 1-11 and 14 are in condition for allowance; such action is respectfully requested at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,

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